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Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please preserve the regulations that give small companies a chance (and give consumers a choice). Competition is necessary and healthy for our economy, to provide options, keep prices competitive and to foster innovation.

The internet, and of course, the telephone are necessary "survival tools" in today's world, both at home and at work, which makes it even more important to protect competitive access to the infrastructure. My phone is now over the internet, so no internet means I'm essentially cutoff from work, family and friends. I have minimal cell service: paying more for cell service because the internet service got too expensive is just stupid.

I use a small ISP for both internet and phone, not only because it's less expensive but also because it provides outstanding customer service. I used to use one of the "big boys". I had regular outages, couldn't get help on the phone and usually had to wait days for someone to come out and fix the problem. It was always on their side, but always came with dire warnings about how much I would have to pay if it turned out to be my problem. Please don't make me go back to that!

I switched from DSL to fiber relatively recently. The service is still through my small ISP, but is also dependent on ATT. Still, what a difference from working with them directly. Instead of going through the ATT run-around, my ISP deals with ATT when necessary. It can still take longer than it should to get someone out here, but it's much better than when I had to deal with them as an individual.

Bottom line: internet is essential. It's a problem from many perspectives if we lose competition. Please keep the consumer protections that allow competition in both pricing and services in the broadband arena.

Thank you!

Jeanne Sawyer